

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 209

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to commemorate "School Safety Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, each day across our State, roughly one million children will leave their homes and head to one of Tennessee's K-12 public schools. While our children are attending class, the faculty and staff at those schools work to educate them, but also to protect them from harm; and

WHEREAS, the unfortunate reality is that in recent years, it seems that violence in our schools has become commonplace, and learning how to prepare and respond to emergencies ranging from school violence to medical emergencies or mental health interventions to assist a student in need has become essential to ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment; and

WHEREAS, in February 2015, the Tennessee Department of Education's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools issued the *Schools Against Violence in Education Act Report*, which detailed incidents that occurred on K-12 public school campuses; and

WHEREAS, the report found that each day, there are more than thirty violent incidents that occur on K-12 campuses. On average, six faculty members will be physically assaulted by a child, while nineteen students will be assaulted by one of their peers. More alarming, once every three days a student is found with a gun or explosive device on a K-12 campus. These alarming statistics underscore the importance of securing our schools and protecting our children; and

WHEREAS, the Rave Panic Button and Smart911 have been leveraged across the nation in securing the safety of millions of school children, and in the State of Tennessee in the communities of Nashville, Brentwood, Wayne County, Bedford County, and Putnam County, as well as at a number of higher education institutions across the State, including the University of

Tennessee, Knoxville; University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; University of Tennessee, Martin; Middle Tennessee State University; Nashville State Community College; and Austin Peay State University. The Rave Panic Button allows one-touch access to public safety and on-site resources through a dual notification system that dials 9-1-1 while also alerting faculty and staff about the incident being reported through a text message and email notification; and

WHEREAS, involving 9-1-1 in the early stages of an incident is critical, as they are ground zero for emergency response. The notification component allows students, teachers, and staff to immediately activate their emergency plans, saving seconds and lives; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee schools should be places where children learn and grow, but that can only happen when they are provided with a safe and nurturing environment. It is crucial that our State ensures that our most precious assets, our children, are protected against all types of emergency incidents while attending school each day; and

WHEREAS, the Rave Panic Button and Smart911 have been trusted to protect residents and students across the nation by connecting school personnel, public safety, and 9-1-1 personnel into a single uniform communications network that enables better communication during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, teachers, faculty, and staff are often the "first, first responders" to incidents occurring on a K-12 campus, including incidents of bullying, physical confrontations, and medical emergencies, or responding to students with behavioral needs, developmental disabilities, or mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, 9-1-1 is the nerve center of emergency response, and their involvement is essential to the proper allocation of resources and the dispatching of appropriate first responders; and

WHEREAS, the Rave Panic Button provides on-site personnel as well as 9-1-1 and public safety with contextual data, including the type of incident and response required, providing all parties with the information necessary to respond quickly and effectively; and

WHEREAS, the Rave School Safety and Information Program also facilitates the delivery of key data, including building plans, AED and other medical device locations, water

line and fire hydrant locations, and other information that may be leveraged during an emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the Rave School Safety and Information Program protects children while also fostering a more collaborative relationship between the teachers and staff entrusted with the safety of our children, and the men and women of public safety who work to protect them each day; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commemorate March 15, 2017, as "School Safety Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.